

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-23 are allowed. Claims 1, 10 and 19 are the independent claims.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record is U.S. Patent 6,109,682 to Zimmer, US Patent No. 6,464,286 to Heuel and EP0200997 to Klaus, which was applied to the claims in the office action mailed November 24, 2010. Suffice it to say, the patents to Zimmer, Heuel and Klaus do not disclose method for producing attached parts for a motor vehicle comprising: moving an internal sheet relative to an external sheet, to move a portion of an outer surface of the internal sheet into contact with at least a portion of an inner surface of the external sheet; forming a hidden or not visible edge area by laying a flange end portion of the external sheet and a flange end portion of the internal sheet on each other to form overlapping flange end portions, laser-welding the overlapping flange end portions of said internal sheet and external sheet together; laying open end portions of the external and internal sheets on each other in parallel to a component plane at one side of at least or at all invisible sides in an edge area of an attached part lying opposite to the visible area(s); and laser-welding said internal and external sheets together as claimed in independent claims 1 and 10, or a motor vehicle part comprising: an external sheet and an internal sheet defining a component plane; said internal sheet comprising a hidden or not visible edge area that cannot be viewed by a user of a motor vehicle, said

hidden or not visible edge area not being visible from a position outside of said external sheet and said internal sheet; wherein the hidden or not visible edge area is an open flange end portion of the external sheet in contact with an open flange end portion of the internal sheet, as claimed in independent claim 19, and as such does not anticipate the instant invention as disclosed in independent claims 1, 10 and 19.

Furthermore, there is no combinable teaching in the prior art of record that would reasonably motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to so modify the teachings of Zimmer, Heuel or Klaus, and thus, for at least the foregoing reasoning, the prior art of record does not render obvious the present invention as set forth in independent claims 1, 10 and 19.

### ***Conclusion***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BAYAN SALONE whose telephone number is (571)270-7739. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30 AM-5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571)-272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BAYAN SALONE/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3726

/DAVID P. BRYANT/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3726